The Washi

Washington

By WILLIAM

From Washington it looks as though 1956 will be a big, vital, critical year—a year requiring crucial decisions, domestic and foreign; a year of bold challenges to our best brand of statecraft, a year when new courses and strategies will need mapping.

And one of the big prob-

Anatone of the big prob-lems confronting the public— which means you, and you, and me—is to keep ade-quately informed, widely and alertly informed, about what is going on. So that we may perceive the nature of the perceive the nature of the new Communist challenge, so that we may understand the needs of our expanding people and economy, so that we may sense the mental environment of these times, and so that we may play our adequate parts as informed citizeńs.

Last year—1955—there was an opportunity to relax, to revel in the wonders of the 20th century, to temporize at temps, and to hope that the critical postwar years were past. The American economy are rising to steadily greater Big Assignment for the New Year

prosperity heights. The Geneva "summit" suggested that the Communists might be reasonable. Insufficient ur-gency was felt about the school-building lack and the highway lag.

Now in a presidential election year—when many great decisions traditionally mark time—things postponed are demanding action. Prosperity is still booming along, but



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